

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 231801Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7139

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA PASS AGRI ATTACHE AND MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EC, ECON, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTIONS TO BRUSSELS PRICE PROPOSALS

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22, PRESIDENT DEBATISSE
OF THE FNSEA, MAIN FRENCH FARMERS' ORGANIZATION, AN-
NOUNCED PLAN FOR NATION-WIDE FARMER DEMONSTRATION DAY
ON FEBRUARY 17, FIRST DAY OF EC AG MINISTERS' SCHEDULED
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MEETING. DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED IN ALL RE-

GIONS TO PRESSURE GOF IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PRICE INCREASES
PROPOSED BY COPA. THE LEFT WING FARMER ORGANIZATION
MODEF ALSO PLANS DEMONSTRATION SAME DAY.

2. FRENCH FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS HAD REQUESTED A
MINIMUM OF A 10 INCREASE OF EC SUPPORT PRICES FOR
197677. ALL FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS REACTED STRONGLY
AGAINST COMMISSION PRICE PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD RESULT
IN AN AVERAGE 6.1 PRICE INCREASE IN FRANCS. LOUDEST
REACTIONS WERE FOR MILK AND RICE WHERE COMMISSION PRO-
POSALS HAVE BEEN JUDGED INADMISSIBLE. PRIME MINISTER
CHIRAC AND AGMINISTER BONNET ALSO HAVE MADE PUBLIC
STATEMENTS THAT MOST OF THE PRICE PROPOSALS WERE UN-
ACCEPTABLE.

COMMENTS: UNTIL NOW ONLY FEW DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED
AND MOSTLY ORGANIZED BY LEFTIST FARM ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER,
FARMER UNREST IS GROWING WITH DEMONSTRATIONS ALREADY
PLANNED IN SOUTH FRANCE BY WINE PRODUCERS ON FEBRUARY 5.
GOF WILL LIKELY CONCENTRATE ITS MAIN ATTENTION ON
OBTAINING HIGHER PRICE INCREASE FOR MILK. IT APPEARS
THAT FNSEA RECOGNIZES THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR GOF
TO OBTAIN ALL THE PRICE INCREASES THAT FARMERS ARE ASK-
ING AS DEBATISSE ALREADY SUGGESTED IN HIS PRESS CON-
FERENCE THAT GOF SHOULD AGAIN MAINTAIN FARMERS' INCOME
WITH DIRECT FRENCH AIDS. THUS, DESPITE REPEATED STATE-
MENTS BY BOTH GOF AND FARM ORGANIZATION LEADERS THAT
THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE POLICY OF USING DIRECT PAYMENTS
AS A MEANS OF SUPPORTING FARM INCOME SUCH "EXTRAORDINARY"
MEASURES MAY BE RESORTED TO AGAIN THIS YEAR AS THEY
WERE A YEAR AGO.
RUSH

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